(d) by when Government would provide employment to those adding to the above number over the period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir, As per the employment and unemployment survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000 (Latest), unemployment rate among the educated (secondary & above) on usual status basis was around 7.1%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the Tenth Plan period. These will help the backlog of educated and uneducated jobseekers as well as to the fresh entrants to labour force.

Strict enforcement of labour laws

1176. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent report of the International Labour Organization highlighting, *inter-alia* that out of 12.3 million "forced labour" in the world, 9.4 million are in Asia, and 80 percent of such bonded labour in the Asia Pacific region can be found in India's factories and fields; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto and the details of any fresh strategy worked out, including strict enforcement of the extant laws, to eliminate all forms of forced labour and protect the weaker and vulnerable sections of society from a life of toiling in bondage?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the recent ILO Report on—A Global Alliance against Forced Labour. In order to eradicate the system of Bonded Labour, the Government have enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 under which engaging labour as bonded labour is an offence and punishable. Though the incidence of bonded labour has been coming down steadily, however, instances of bonded labour have been reported from the rural based informal sector from some of the State from time to time. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme started in 1978, so far 2,66,283 labourers have been identified as bonded labourers and all have been adequately rehabilitated by providing rehabilitation package comprising milch animals, allotment of land, a house

under Indira Awas Yojana, etc. Further Sensitisation Workshops for authorities dealing with the bonded labour are held regularly by the National Human Rights Commission in close collaboration with the Central and State Governments. A Special Groups under the Chairmanship of Union Secretary (L&E) has been monitoring the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 by holding regular region-wise meetings
in the country. Vigilance Committees as per the said Act have been constituted in districts and sub-divisions under the Chairmanship of District Magistrates/Sub Divisional Magistrates respectively to identify the incidence of bonded labour and to provide adequate rehabilitation package to the identified bonded labourers.

Legislation for labour reforms

1177. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bring forward any suitable legislation for labour reforms so as to ensure a larger safety net for both organized and unorganized sector workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have so far held any discussions in this regard with the employers, trade union representatives and other stakeholders in order to reach the consensus; and

(d) if so, by when such a draft legislation is likely to be brought forward before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. Safety net by way of social security to workers is provided through operation of existing legislations like the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.'

Child labour engaged in hazardous industries in Uttar Pradesh

†1178. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR
AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.